

May 2, 2003

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman  
The Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Congratulations!

On behalf of AMT – The Association For Manufacturing Technology, I would like to thank you for your leadership in putting forward a tax bill that will stimulate the lagging manufacturing sector and provide for long-term growth by expanding the expensing allowance to 50-percent and extending it through 2005. By further enhancing expensing for small businesses, and by innovatively reducing taxes on dividends and capital gains.

AMT's members, who are the canaries in the coalmine vis-à-vis the manufacturing sector, are currently experiencing the worst conditions in the domestic market in a half a century. Orders are off more than 55 percent since their peak in 1997. Our industry and our customers desperately need the stimulus your proposal will provide in order to stay competitive in an increasingly hostile environment.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the economic picture for our industry and its customers.

Sincerely,

James H. Mack  
Vice President – Tax & Economic Policy